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David White (actor)

David White (April 4, 1916 – November 27, 1990) was an American stage, film, and television actor best known for playing Darrin Stephens' boss Larry Tate from 1964 to 1972 on the ABC situation comedy *Bewitched*.

Early life

Born on April 4, 1916, in Denver, Colorado, he later moved with his family to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Los Angeles City College and began acting at the Pasadena Playhouse and the Cleveland Play House. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, and after his discharge, made his Broadway debut in 1949 in *Leaf and Bough*.[1]

Career

White appeared on numerous television series in the 1950s and 1960s, including *One Step Beyond*, where he played a police officer. He made two guest appearances on the CBS courtroom drama *Perry Mason*. In 1960, he played Henry De Garmo in "The Case of the Madcap Modiste" and in 1963, he played newspaper editor and murderer Victor Kendall in "The Case of the Witless Witness". He also appeared in *Peter Gunn*, *Mr. Lucky*, *The Untouchables*, *The Fugitive*, *Mission: Impossible*, *My Three Sons*, *Father Knows Best* , *Bonanza*, *Have Gun – Will Travel*, *My Favorite Martian*, and *Dick Tracy*. He appeared in two episodes of *The Twilight Zone*: "I Sing the Body Electric" and "A World of Difference." Also in 1963, he appeared on *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* as Detective Burr in "An Out for Oscar", and as Lance Hawthorn in "The Dark Pool". Though primarily known for television work, White had several memorable supporting feature - film roles, including portraying a sleazy columnist in *Sweet Smell of Success* (1957), *The Apartment* (1960), in which he played a philandering executive, and *Sunrise at Campobello* (also 1960)[2] and *The Lawbreakers* (1961).

In 1964, White was cast as sycophantic advertising executive Larry Tate on *Bewitched*, a role he played for the show's entire run (1964–1972). The character is president of the McMann & Tate advertising agency, workplace of Dick York's (and later Dick Sargent's) Darrin Stephens character. Many of the show's episodes revolved around Tate's attempts to land

David White

Born	April 4, 1916 Denver, Colorado, U.S.
Died	November 27, 1990 (aged 74) North Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Alma mater	Los Angeles City College
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1949–1989
Height	6 ft 2 in (1.88 m)
Spouses	Mary Welch (m. 1952; died 1958) Lisa Figus (m. 1959, divorced)
Children	2

lucrative advertising accounts. This is the role for which he would become best-known both during his life and posthumously. Larry Tate's baby boy Jonathan was named after White's son. White also directed one season-six episode of *Bewitched*, "Sam's Double Mother Trouble".

Following the end of *Bewitched*, White was a popular character actor on numerous television series for the next decade, including *The Love Boat*, *Remington Steele*, *Adam-12*, *The Rockford Files*, *Columbo: Identity Crisis*, *What's Happening!!*, *Rhoda*, *Quincy, M.E.*, *The Odd Couple*, *Cagney & Lacey*, *Wonder Woman* and *Dallas*. He played the role of J. Jonah Jameson in the pilot episode of the television series *The Amazing Spider-Man*. His final role came in 1986 on an episode of *Dynasty*. He also appeared in the movies *The Happy Hooker Goes to Washington* and Disney's *Snowball Express*, and had a prominent role in the 1985 version of *Brewster's Millions* starring Richard Pryor.[3]

Personal life

White's first marriage was to stage actress Mary Welch. On May 31, 1958, Welch died of complications from her second pregnancy. Their son, Jonathan, died on December 21, 1988, at the age of 33, in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.[4]

White married actress Lisa Figus in 1959, with whom he had a daughter, Alexandra. They divorced and Figus remarried, date unknown.

Death

He died of a heart attack on November 27, 1990, in North Hollywood, California, aged 74.[1]

Filmography

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1957	*Sweet Smell of Success*	Otis Elwell	Uncredited
1958	*The Goddess*	Burt Harris	Uncredited
1960	*The Apartment*	Mr. Eichelberger	
1960	*Sunrise at Campobello*	Mr. Lassiter	
1961	*The Great Impostor*	Dr. Hammond	
1961	*Madison Avenue*	Stevenson Brock	
1965	*The Lollipop Cover*	Richard	
1970	*The Red, White, and Black*	10th Cavalry Trooper #16	
1972	*Snowball Express*	Mr. Fowler	
1977	*The Happy Hooker Goes to Washington*	Senator Rawlings	
1985	*Fast Forward*	Mr. Sabol	
1985	*This Wife for Hire*	Larry Dunston	
1985	*Brewster's Millions*	George Granville	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1959	*One Step Beyond*	Lieutenant Barry	Episode: Delusion
1960-1962	*The Twilight Zone*	Brinkley Mr. Rogers	Episode: A World of Difference Episode: I Sing the Body Electric
1960	*Perry Mason*	Henry de Garmo	Episode: The Case of the Madcap Modiste
1960	*Bonanza*	Mr. Pendleton	Episode: San Francisco Season 1 Episode 28
1962	"Alfred Hitchcock Hour"	Episode: The Dark Pool Season 1 Episode 29	1962
1964	"Alfred Hitchcock Hour"	Mr. Fowler	Season 9 Episode 15 "Night Caller" (January 31, 1964)
1964-1972	*Bewitched*	Larry Tate	Recurring in seasons 1–5, starring in seasons 6–8
1973	*Banacek*		Episode: The Jack Part 1 -2
1973	*Adam-12*	J. T. McGrath	Episode: A Fool and His Money
1973	*The Odd Couple*	Phil Russell	Episode: Felix Directs
1975	*Rhoda*	Ted Cummings	Episode: Friends and Mothers
1975	*Columbo*	Phil Corrigan	Episode: Identity Crisis
1976	*The Rockford Files*	Martin Eastman	Episode: Foul on the First Play
1976	*What's Happening!!*	Mr. Reynolds	Episode: The Burger Queen
1977	*Mary Tyler Moore Show*	Mr. Cobb	Episode: Hail the Conquering Gordy
1977	*The Amazing Spider-Man*	J. Jonah Jameson	Episode: Spider-Man (pilot episode)
1978	*C.P.O. Sharkey*	Admiral Holland	Episode: Captain's Right Hand Man
1978	*The Love Boat*	Greg Beatty	Episode: Too Hot to Handle/Family Reunion/Cinderella Story
1979	*Wonder Woman*	The General	Episode: The Starships Are Coming
1981	*The Incredible Hulk*	Archer Hewitt	Episode: Veteran
1981-1982	*Quincy, M.E.*	Dr. Fulton Drew Castle	Episode: Sugar and Spice Episode: Expert in Murder
1962	*Have Gun — Will Travel*	Tom Carey	Episode: Marshal of Sweetwater

1985	*Remington Steele*	J.W. Kendall	Episode: Steele of Approval
1985	*Cagney & Lacey*	Mitchell Farnsworth	Episode: Two Grand
1985-1986	*Dallas*	Mark	Episode: Swan Song Episode: Return to Camelot: Part 2
1986	*The A-Team*	Rudy	Episode: Mission of Peace
1986	*Riptide*	Professor Shellbeck	Episode: The Play's the Thing
1986	*Dynasty*	Dr. Gavin	Episode: The Arraignment
1989	*Mergers & Acquisitions*	Chairman of the Board	(short)

References

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2. "David White, Stage, Movie and TV Actor" (https://www.newspapers.com/clip/104744189/the-los-angeles-times/). *Los Angeles Times*. November 30, 1990. p. A30. Retrieved July 1, 2022.
3. "Richard Pryor's 'Brewster' Could Be Worth Millions" (https://www.newspapers.com/clip/104744417/the-daily-oklahoman/). *The Daily Oklahoman*. May 26, 1985. p. A&E 4. Retrieved July 1, 2022.
4. Hedges, Chris (2009). *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle* (https://archive.org/details/empireofillusion0000hedg_j7j3/page/18/mode/2up?q=%22david+white%22). Toronto: Knopf Canada. p. 19. ISBN 978-0-3073-9846-8.

External links

Biography portal

- David White (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0924668/) at IMDb
- David White (https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/79877) at the Internet Broadway Database
- David White (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23418) at Find a Grave

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